



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum

New Venue For Canoe & Brew Sept 25

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will host its “Canoe & Brew” dinner event at a new venue this year from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday September 25th. The Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary will be the site for this third annual celebration in 2022. Despite the new venue, many features of the event will be similar to previous years. Prior to the dinner, guests can enjoy a brew or two from Round Man Brewing, or maybe a preference will be a wine sample from Clarity Wine Shop. There will also be a meet and greet, live music, displays of some of the museum’s new collections pieces, and a chance to win some of the extra raffle prizes we’ll have for the day. It all leads up to a country style catered dinner followed by a short post-dinner program and the annual canoe raffle drawing.

“One of the fun, new things this year is that Hunt Hill is on Devil’s Lake,” says event organizer and WCHM Treasurer Debbie Koehn, “so from 1:00 to 3:00 you can bring your own canoe or utilize one of the canoes at the venue and go for a beautiful fall paddle before the rest of the event starts.” This year’s event will be limited to 75 attendees, so reservations are highly recommended. The cost for this museum fundraising event is \$30 per reservation, all fun included. You can make reservations by writing to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.



A Wet But Successful 2022 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show Was Held May 28

The morning started out a bit cool and damp, with a light rain coming down as exhibitors were setting up, but things cleared up for the day by the time the show got rolling and the beer and brats began to disappear along with the rain. The 2022 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show was deemed a success, as a record 33 exhibitors shared their prize canoes and paraphernalia with a nice crowd throughout the day.

This free event marks the season opening of the museum and included an open house in the museum exhibit hall, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, live music and food and beverage outdoors in the beer garden, a silent auction, and of course the aforementioned Canoe & Wooden Boat Show. Complicating the boat show this year was the major road construction taking place in Spooner this summer. The closure of the main highway through town detoured most of the city traffic to the street in front of the museum, making it impossible to hold the boat show in the street as usual. But the word from many of the exhibitors is that they actually preferred the new set-up, which utilized the large parking lot next door for the boat show instead of the street. We’ll see what happens next year when the show is once again held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.



2022 WCHM Board of Directors Election Has Four Candidates

Four WCHM Board of Directors seats are up for election in 2022. Retiring from the board are Debbie Koehn (who has served as Treasurer and Secretary), Rich Taylor (who has served as President), and Ken Jonas. Ron Carlson is running for another three year term as an incumbent. New candidates include Dan Dietz of Arden Hills MN, Deane Wilkinson of Spooner, and Sue Sandberg of Minneapolis. The election is being conducted by mail (members should receive a ballot with this newsletter),. Ballots are due September 15th. Results will be announced at the annual membership meeting (held online via Zoom) on Tuesday September 20th (see details elsewhere in this newsletter about how to participate).

Meet The 2022 WCHM Board Candidates

Meet Ron Carlson - I grew up near canoe country and learned a lot about canoeing with the Boy Scouts. My brothers and I harvested wild rice and tripped the wilderness in our youth and continue to this day. Now I have found a passion for wood and canvas canoes and am happy to work with WCHM [Ron was first appointed to the board in Oct 2017 and was re-elected in 2019].



Meet Deane Wilkinson - After being introduced to kayaking and canoeing in CA by my husband, my real interest in canoeing began in 2006 after moving to Spooner WI. We began canoeing local rivers immediately. Eventually we learned about the boundary waters and coordinated a family trip and the passion of canoeing grew from there. We watched the feed store building as it was transformed into the museum and we have been involved as Keymasters since day one. My interest in becoming a board member is to further my knowledge about canoes in our history to not only enrich my life, but the lives of the visitors we meet at the museum. It is my hope to bring ideas to help raise interest in the community and with our youth. We have learned a great deal about the skills of canoeing and even competition opportunities. I have watched the WCHM grow year after year and I want to bring what I can to continue its growth and success.



Meet Sue Kupcho Sandberg - My interest in canoes began in Girl Scouts where we flipped and learned to right canoes in deep water. College and working years involved trips to the Boundary Waters. My husband Bill and I built a cedarstrip canoe, a Chestnut Prospector, from the Canocraft book by Moores and Mohr using the West System. It had a successful maiden voyage to the boundary waters. Now, hanging on our log rafters in our Webb Lake cabin is this cedarstrip canoe, as well as a birchbark canoe made by Hafeman Boatworks of Bigfork, Minnesota. Two vintage canvas canoes also grace our cabin walls. I am recently retired from the University of Minnesota research labs of the medical school and will complete a masters' degree in the biological sciences (MBS) in Dec 2022.



Meet Dan Dietz - I was raised paddling and rowing around a small lake outside Danbury Wisconsin where our families' summer cabin was located. We have had our own cabin on Webb Lake for over twenty years now where I have three canoes: one hand me down canoe, one salvaged, and one purchased. I have not missed my annual canoe trip down the Namekagon for over 40 years. We also enjoy canoeing other rivers including the Brule River (flowing north into Lake Superior) which is our favorite waterway. I have also been collecting paddles for many, many moons by means of salvaging, bartering, and buying. I worked for Graco Inc. (a Minneapolis based manufacturing company) for 25 years after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Manufacturing Management degree. Our favorite canoes at the Spooner Museum are the guide models with the comfortable seat for the client. I truly love the water, and I am fascinated by all boats.

Thank You to Our 2022 Business Supporters

Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI
Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake WI

Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI
Indianhead Credit Union, Spooner WI
Cooke Custom Sewing, Lino Lakes MN

Tim Reedy Insurance, Spooner WI
Northwind Book & Fiber, Spooner WI
Schmitz's Economart, Spooner WI

News Briefs & Upcoming Events



Canoe Shop Stays Busy Through Summer

The WCHM shop is keeping busy through the summer months. Dee Welch from Phillips, Wisconsin, recently constructed a canoe frame on a Chestnut Prospector mold and took it home for completion. Mike Johnson of Spooner is restoring a 1919 Old Town Heavy Water canoe (#52727) that he purchased at the WCHM auction and was donated to WCHM by Paul Klonowski in Gurnee IL. The interesting thing about this canoe is that Old Town started construction on it just a few days after the armistice that ended World War I.

WCHM Shop Takes On Forest Service Restoration

Jamie Dunn and the WCHM shop gang have taken on another restoration project, this time for the newly forming Museum of Forest Service History being built in Montana. The boat under restoration is a 17 foot canoe made by the Shell Lake Boat Company and used by the US Forest Service in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota. The Forest Service sold the canoe in 1968 to Lucille Churchhill of Isabella, Minnesota, and it was recently donated to the planned Forest Service Museum. The restoration will be quite a project, with a need to splice new inwales and replace the outwales, decks, seats, keel and stems. And of course new canvas, paint, varnish, and fasteners throughout are also required. Work is ongoing at this time and completion is expected sometime later this year.



WCHM Exhibit Hall Attendance Up In 2022

WCHM has been working with Full Tilt Marketing to increase the number of visitors through the exhibit hall, and so far the 2022 numbers look promising. At the Fourth of July break the exhibit hall had recorded 200 visitors for the year so far, a 42% increase over the 141 recorded at the same time last year. Averaging about seven visitors a day, near the end of July the tally was still 4% above the previous year, 289 visitors in 2022 vs 278 in 2021 (these numbers do not include the hundreds of uncountable visitors during the opening day open house).

Jon McHugh Donates Canoe Photo

Jon McHugh of West Bend, Wisconsin, recently donated a framed photo of his restored Thompson Hiawatha 17 foot wood and canvas canoe. The photograph was taken on Clear Lake in October 2021. Jon purchased the canoe from Ferde Goode and hopes the photograph will inspire people to go canoeing. He delivered it to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum on opening day during the Canoe & Wooden Boat Show.



WCHM General Membership Meeting September 20th.

On Tuesday September 20th the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will hold its annual general membership meeting virtually via the Zoom meeting app. The main topic of the meeting will be the announcement of the results of the organization's annual election of board directors (WCHM members should receive an election ballot along with this newsletter). Members are invited to tune-in on Zoom starting at 6:00 pm CDT with meeting ID: 832 9941 5517 and passcode: 869723. You can also participate by phone by calling 929-205-6099. A link to the meeting and all the codes to join in will be published on the museum website the day of the meeting, www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.

WCHM Participates in WCHA Assembly in Paul Smiths, New York

The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) held its National Annual Assembly on July 12-17 at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York. The theme of the event was "Solo Canoes and Remembering Tom Mackenzie," and the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum had the privilege of participating in a number of ways.



WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke presented a booth on the green for three days promoting the museum, with many visitors stopping by to purchase a raffle ticket, take out a membership, or just to learn about the museum in Wisconsin. Jed brought to New York a good portion of the museum's MacKenzie display that was featured at the Assembly, and returned with new Tom MacKenzie museum donations from Karen MacKenzie (Tom's spouse) and Doug MacKenzie (Tom's brother).

David Yost, designer of most of the Loon Works boats, gave a tour of canoes in the designated "MacKenzie Tent." Here he is pointing out and talking about the MacKenzie canoes and display (out of the photo) provided by the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum.



The WCHM display included one of Tom's early birch bark canoes and his last canoe, the famed Nakoma, plus display materials and a few artifacts from The Loon Works. Assembly Director Rob Stevens said "The WCHM contribution of this special exhibit was a huge contribution to the event."

WCHM Board member Benson Gray (in cowboy hat) of the Old Town Grays gave a very knowledgeable and informative tour of the more than sixty boats on the green that were brought by other Assembly participants.



WCHM Board member Dan Miller of Dragon Fly Canoe Works (www.dragonflycanoe.com) had a booth on the green and also gave a fascinating presentation entitled "One Man, One Canoe; Solo Canoes in the Early Days of Recreational Canoeing." Here he is on the green (center) discussing a pre 1910 Beers Brothers Engine Company canoe with fellow attendees.

Contact the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum

www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org
PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801 715-635-5002, 715-635-2479